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THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING

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EDITORIAL COMMENT



THE PUBLIC-SCHOOL NURSE

THE extension of the work of nurses in the public schools is perhaps the most striking development in recent nursing progress. No form of preventive work is exciting more lively and widespread interest in the public mind than this. Inquiries are coming in from the whole country, and the New York Board of Health is besieged with letters. A pamphlet giving all details is being issued by the Health Department of that city, and, with the one previously issued on the medical inspection, will supply towns now planning this work with information. From all points of view this success should be peculiarly gratifying to nurses, and should stimulate them to fresh endeavors. More than any other branch of nursing, the public-school offers the opportunity for public service of a high type, because it is so closely related with all the forces working for good citizenship. Men and women who are defending the right of the children to a good education—those who are fighting the evils of child-labor, of bad housing, of unsanitary cities, of homes turned into work-shops, are all eagerly welcoming the nurse, with her practical ability and her intimate touch with the people, as an ally. Public-School nursing means an immense deal more than just tying up small cuts (this limited conception being held by the English lay nursing press). It means the opportunity for prevention and health missionary work even more extensive than that of the district nurse, out of whose devoted labors it has grown. The visiting nurse and her coworkers have supplied the first impetus to this branch of the care of the public health, and

have demonstrated its possibilities and given object lessons of what it should be both in England and at home. It is an achievement of which they have every reason to be proud. No branch of work shows in a prettier way the dependence of medicine for good results on nursing, or the necessity of rounding out the plans of men by the personal solicitude of women. The neglected children formerly excluded from school by the medical inspectors played on the street without treatment and lost their schooling as well. Now, with the practical details given over to the nurse, the medical inspectors are thoroughly examining the eyes and the whole physical condition of the school children, and the whole immense field of physical development, nutrition, and life conditions of the child, is being opened up to intelligent scrutiny. In every city where there are no school nurses organizations of nurses should lead the agitation for their appointment.

Extracts from Miss Rogers' annual report showing work done in New York City during the past year are found on another page.

THE FUTURE OF OUR ASSOCIATIONS

How are our *alumnæ* associations to be improved? After considering the many lines of work and interests that are open to our local associations comes the question: Are they alive to their many possibilities, or are they not? Now, to answer this truly, let us all be perfectly honest and candid with ourselves. No polite generalizing. no amiable rose-coloring of statement. We have a few excellent associations, that do excellent work, where there is an *esprit de corps* and where traditions are handed down that keep the younger ones inspired. But is it not a fact that nine-tenths of our meetings are deadly dull; a waste of time; a bore and an affliction of spirit? That all of the work is done by two or three overburdened people? That the others do not even feel an interest in what the few are doing, far less support and encourage them? We know of associations where nothing but the nice cake and coffee draws a few members together; others, where the younger members only appear when they have some extra-fine clothes; others, where the whole time is spent in wearisome hair splitting of parliamentary procedures,—nothing live, nothing vital, nothing inspiring. Then, we hear complaints that the members will not come to meetings, that the new graduates will not join, and that the old ones are stupid. Enough of criticism. We all know the state of the case. What is to be done?

In the first place, it is our opinion that a greatly more determined and systematic attempt should be made to bring into the associations the oncoming classes. It should be a matter of course that the graduating class would enter the Alumnæ Association as a body. But there are very few schools where this occurs. On the contrary, it is quite the rule that out of every graduating class, say of twenty, three, or four join the Alumnæ. Why is this? It is because the Alumnæ have shown no interest in securing membership? Heretofore this has been left to the superintendents,—busy women, whose daily duties are steadily becoming more complex and numerous.

The Superintendent's duty in this matter is easily defined. She should see to it that during the entire period of training in the hospital the pupils receive proper instruction in regard to their obligations to the profession which they are preparing to enter. This should be done by informal talks from time to time in class, with perhaps once a year a lecture to the whole school given either by the superintendent herself or by some one selected by her.

Then a short time before the senior class graduates members of the alumnæ association should be given an opportunity to spend an evening with the class, acquainting the members with the object of the association, what it stands for, what it is trying to do, and how it can be helpful to the individual nurse.

Having given the alumnæ association this opportunity, the superintendent's obligation to the association in regard to the matter of securing new members is at an end.

We would suggest, however, that if the superintendent fails to invite the alumnæ for such a conference with the graduating class, that the alumnæ take the initiative and request that this privilege may be granted to a committee of its members.

After the pupils have left the hospital it then becomes the business of the alumnæ and not the business of the superintendent to bring the new graduates into the association.

We will predict that if this yearly talk was given by members of the association outside of the hospitals, there would be results; not all at once, but results.

Having done this, and invited the class to join as a whole, the Association might easily make some little informal social affair to welcome them and make them feel that there is a social center and bond. As to meetings, routine business should be transacted as quickly as possible and put out of the way. A frightful amount of time is wasted over unimportant details, which could be dispatched with a word and in

a moment; also in waiting for tardy members to make a quorum. More time should be given to informal social gatherings, where members could move about and meet each other, instead of sitting around the wall like a row of images. Most important of all, some work of real importance, and genuine usefulness should be taken up yearly, and associations might well be divided into departments, like the women's clubs, each department having its special work. Every member of the association should be in one of these departments; thus all would feel a share in the interest and responsibility, which now are loaded on two or three chairmen of committees, or on the president.

Instead of making routine monthly reports to the JOURNAL, all sounding exactly alike, and consisting principally of names, associations could report when something was done; when an achievement had been completed; when some worthy success had encouraged them.

We have given in these pages what we consider to be the ideal lines of development with the ideal division of work and interests for the future life and up-building of our organizations.

The Alumnae Association has been a powerful factor in the development of national unity; can it be extended to meet the needs of the growing future; is it possible to overcome the fostering of school lines and the narrowing of interests which at the present time seem to be a threatened danger?

Have its days of usefulness passed and is this the cause of the prevailing inertia, to the existence of which we cannot blind ourselves?

If this is true, then what is to be our next line of development?

With fresh vigor we must get to work. Stagnation will be our ruin.

OUR PRIVATE NURSING EDITOR

WE announced in our last issue that at the January meeting of the Journal Directors, it was decided to appoint a salaried Private Nursing Editor who would devote her entire time to subjects dealing exclusively with the work and interests of private nurses.

Miss Catharine De Witt, who has been appointed to this position, was born in the State of New York, received a college education in Massachusetts, graduated as a nurse from the Illinois Training-School in Chicago, and has practiced her profession in nearly every state in the Union.

Immediately after receiving her nurse diploma in 1891 she was

enrolled in the directory of the Illinois school and took anything and everything that offered, hard and easy cases alike, for a long period of years. She has more recently specialized in obstetrics. She was at one time the president of the Illinois Alumnae and has been always closely in touch with the organization life of her profession.

In addition to all of this exceptional and broad experience she possesses a naturally gifted pen, as has been demonstrated in her contributions to the earlier numbers of this journal.

During the five years which have just closed the burning question with the great nursing body all over the world has been organization leading to state registration. This journal has been the leading organ in the United States in this movement for state registration; much of our space has been occupied by reports of organization work and of papers pertaining to such work, and as the result we have practically the whole country organized on uniform lines. There is a friendliness, an *esprit de corps*, existing between the nurses of the North, South, East and West, such as was never dreamed of before the JOURNAL's existence. We are exceedingly proud of this achievement.

During this time, however, the needs of the women absorbed in private nursing have not been forgotten. Every number issued has contained more or less matter of importance and value to this class of workers, but the feeling has grown, and we have been perhaps the first to recognize it, that the vitally important questions pertaining to organization have in a measure overshadowed the more simple and practical subjects belonging to the daily life of the private nurses.

Organization is in a measure an old story; it is established, and each State and city has a group of educated leaders who may be trusted to act as guides in all matters of organization detail. The JOURNAL now proposes to turn its attention more particularly and closely to those matters of nursing care and methods that the great rank and file are demanding at its hands.

With April our new Private Nursing Editor will begin her work and it is our intention to make the May issue a special private nursing number.

We want to remind this class of workers, however, that if the JOURNAL has sometimes lacked practical papers pertaining to their special line of work, it is, to speak plainly, their own fault.

It has been a constant effort of the editors and collaborators to induce the private nurses to write original papers pertaining to their peculiar work, and we have had some splendid contributions from private nurses, but the great bulk of our material has been contributed either by

the very busy superintendents of hospitals or by the organization leaders.

Under the guidance of our special Private Nursing Editor we shall look for more cordial coöperation from the private nurses.

It is only fair to say that nurses who will not help to make the JOURNAL interesting should not criticise it for not furnishing such material as they desire, bearing in mind that this magazine is a professional journal and not a commercial enterprise; that its aims are to educate, not to reap dividends, and that as the official organ of the Associated Alumnae with its affiliated membership of more than ten thousand nurses, the responsibility for its success rests quite as much upon the great rank and file of private duty nurses as with the small group of women who have carried forward its development until the present time.

Organization, with all that pertains to it, will continue to occupy an important place in our pages, but the needs of private nurses will receive greater attention during the coming years.

RESEARCH WORK BY NURSES

THE Lakeside Hospital School for Nurses, Cleveland, Ohio, offers to its third-year pupils a special prize of the value of \$75 for the best paper written upon a subject selected by the Training-School Committee; the papers to be submitted for examination to the Training-School Committee, and the prize not to be awarded unless the paper offered be of sufficient merit.

Subject selected for this year—"The Alleviation of the Discomforts following Anesthesia."

Also a prize of the value of \$25 has been offered to the third-year pupils by Dr. Edward F. Cushing, for the best paper on "The Nursing of Sick Children."

This action of the Lakeside School will have double value in the education of the nurses not only in training their powers of observation but in cultivating the habit of expressing themselves in writing, a form of development in which we have reason to know the average private nurse is lacking. We have come to the conclusion that it is not from the lack of knowledge or time that makes it almost impossible to persuade nurses in private practice to write of their work, but because the habit of literary expression in regard to things pertaining to their profession has not been properly developed during the period when they were

acquiring the fundamental principles of their profession. The rush and pressure of the daily hospital routine has of course been responsible in a large measure for this, and that time and opportunity are to be afforded in the Lakeside School, with the distinct object of encouraging and stimulating the powers of observation, to develop the ability to write intelligently upon the knowledge gained, for the express purpose of glean- ing information that may be of value to the nursing profession and to mankind, is a great stride in the right direction. The JOURNAL will reap the benefits as the years go on.

CENTRAL VERSUS ALUMNÆ DIRECTORIES

THE nurses of Baltimore are agitating the question of a central directory and the last quarterly of the *Johns Hopkins Alumnæ magazine* gives the opinions of nurses in different lines of work, both for and against the establishment of such a directory. This is a subject which we think should be given very careful consideration in all of our organiza- tions, regarding it not from the commercial standpoint, but as one of the lines of broader professional growth. We are gradually coming to the opinion that the alumnæ directory, as it is now managed at least, tends to foster school lines and in this way is a detriment to professional growth.

Miss Maderia in the Baltimore discussion has brought out an idea which we think of very great value. She says: "In many ways I think a Central Directory is a good thing, bringing all schools together and making us all stand on our own feet as individuals, rather than being known simply as graduates from a certain school." We think Miss Maderia has touched a point of very great importance and one which may be the cause of the lack of broad liberal professional growth on the part of the members of so many of our alumnæ associations.

In the alumnæ directory a nurse is sent for, not because of the quality of her work, but because she is a graduate of that particular school. It is not being demonstrated, at least in some places, that, because of this easy way of securing "cases" without competition or personal effort on the part of the woman, she sometimes deteriorates both in character and skill; and may this not account to some degree for the fact that physicians prefer the younger women fresh from the discipline and the methods of the training-school?

In the centres where there are large numbers of registered nurses,

we believe that a central registry governed by a county or graduate association would not only serve as a stimulant to professional development but prove to be a great convenience to the public, and under proper business management would lead to the establishment of libraries and meeting-places for the women of the nursing profession, regardless of school lines.

THE CENTRAL REGISTRY FOR GRADUATE NURSES OF CLEVELAND, OHIO.

As we go to press we learn that a central directory has been established in Cleveland, and a brief outline of the history of this registry may be of interest to the readers of the JOURNAL.

About two years ago the registry was established by graduate nurses, and the registrar appointed was a graduate of a training-school in good standing.

For two years the registry has not been a success, simply because the graduate nurses of Cleveland failed to appreciate the effort that had been made in their interests. Without the best nurses on the registry list, the medical profession, although anxious to patronize a good registry, could not give it their support. The financial burden for the two unsuccessful years was gracefully borne by the Graduate Nurses Association, because it felt that Cleveland needed such a registry; that the medical profession was entitled to the convenience, and that it was one small step in the way of raising the standard of nurses.

In October last the nurses finally decided to patronize the registry, and now there is a membership of above one hundred, representing the best nurses in the city.

The registry now receives many calls, and the members feel that they now have the coöperation of the medical profession.

All applications are sent to the registration committee. This committee has worked long and steadily under the most discouraging circumstances, yet not one of its members is doing private nursing. Such untiring and faithful effort is bound to finally bring its reward, and this registry in Cleveland, established by nurses managed by nurses, in charge of a nurse, is at last on a fair way to be a success.

OTHER EXPERIMENTS

The Boston Nurses' Club has conducted a central directory successfully for a number of years. There is also one of this kind in Seattle, Wash. We would like to hear from directories of this class from all over the country.

NURSES' UNIFORMS WORN IN THE STREET

A NURSE in sickroom is supposed to wear clean clothing, her uniform is of washable material so that it may be clean and not hold the germs of disease. She is expected to put on a perfectly clean wash dress after going into the house of a patient, and to change at least once a week, or oftener, as occasion may require.

In cases of surgical operation her cleanliness of person and clothing is of the same vital importance that it is in the hospital.

Nurses in hospitals are not supposed to wear their uniforms on the street or outside of the hospital; the only nurses who are permitted to do this are the visiting nurses. Some hospitals are more exacting than others in regard to the enforcing of this rule, and some nurses will go out on the sly in their uniforms, knowing that they are breaking a rule of the hospital, as well as a law of hygiene.

A skirt that has been worn in our street-cars, trailed over our sidewalks, slimy with expectoration, drabbled through the mud of the streets in sloppy weather, is a danger in any sickroom. Patients whose resisting power has been weakened by any kind of illness are peculiarly susceptible to the contagious diseases, especially tuberculosis and diphtheria, two diseases that give off their most dangerous poison from the discharges from the lungs, throat and nose.

A woman who will wear her uniform in the street has either been badly trained or is disregarding one of the most important laws in regard to public health which her training-school has taught her; she is an unsafe person to have in the home, and the public should not employ such women, and would not do so if it understood the danger of having her dirty skirts in the home.

Furthermore, the wearing of the uniform makes a nurse conspicuous wherever she may be; the fact that she wears a long coat over her dress and apron, particularly when the coat is left flying open in the front and is slashed to the waist at the back, does not conceal her identity or protect her dress from the contamination of the street.

In fact, the long coat by holding the skirts down, causes a greater amount of dirt to adhere to the garments.

In England nurses have worn uniforms in the street until the dress has been adopted very widely by women of disrepute, who wish to gain entrance to the homes of the people for dishonest purposes, until it has become a great abuse in all of Great Britain.

No nurses except the district nurses can be justified in being seen in the streets in uniform. This special class of nurses should be dis-

tinguished by the fact that they are going earnestly about their business, not shopping in the stores or walking in the streets with young men, and to those nurses the uniform is a protection, although in many cities the district nurses go into the very heart of the slums without any distinguishing costume.

The wearing of the nurse's uniform in the street is first of all unsanitary for the reasons which we have cited, and it is unprofessional because it advertises the occupation of the wearer and makes her conspicuous. We think we can truthfully say that the custom is condemned by all nurses of the highest ideals. We think it is a matter that should be taken up by nurses' organizations, and we recommend a little newspaper publicity of such a character that the people will be made to understand the dangers of the practice and that it is only nurses of the second and third rate, or no rate at all, who are seen about in street-cars, stores, restaurants and theatres in their nursing costume.

PROGRESS OF STATE REGISTRATION

NEW YORK

SECTION 206 of the Nurse Practise Act of New York in effect April 7, 1903, contains the following:

Before beginning to practice nursing every such registered nurse shall cause such certificate to be recorded in the county clerk's office of the county of his or her residence, with an affidavit of his or her identity as the person to whom the same was so issued, and of his or her place of residence within such county. In the month of January, 1906, and in every thirty-sixth month thereafter, every registered nurse shall again cause his or her certificate to be recorded in the said county clerk's office, with an affidavit of his or her identity as the person to whom the same was issued, and of his or her place of residence at the time of such registration.

In section 209, under "Violations of this Article," we find "any violation of this article shall be a misdemeanor."

When any prosecution for violation of this article is made by the New York State Nurses Association . . . the fines collected shall be paid to said association, and any excess in amount of fine so paid over the expenses incurred by said association in enforcing the provisions of this article shall be paid at the end of each year to the Treasurer of the State of New York.

It has been found that a great many nurses have neglected to comply with this condition of the law; large numbers not registering their

certificates at all, and many who did register them promptly after being received, have failed to re-register in accordance with the requirements of the statute in January, 1906.

In at least one city the county clerk has refused to re-register such certificates after the January limit had expired. An appeal to the Education Department at Albany has brought the following ruling from Dr. Howard J. Rogers, First Assistant Commissioner of Education, in a letter addressed to Miss Sophia F. Palmer, President of the State Board of Nurse Examiners, in which he says:

In reply to your communication of February 9 asking for a ruling on the matter of the re-registration of nurses during the month of January, 1906, as required by section 206 of the public health law, I beg to state as follows after a consultation with the Attorney-General:

The clause requiring that every registered nurse shall in the month of January, 1906, and every thirty-sixth month thereafter again cause his or her certificate to be recorded in the county clerk's office, etc., is directory in its terms and no penalty attaches if the re-registration is not made. Further, the county clerks of the various counties may within a reasonable time after January 31, 1906, accept and record re-registrations under this act.

On the other hand, if a nurse does not record his or her certificate again, as required by the statute, within a reasonable length of time, they cannot use the letters R. N. after their names or claim to be a registered nurse within the meaning of the said law. Should they without such re-registration continue to use this title, or to so term themselves, they would be guilty of a misdemeanor and could be proceeded against under section 209 of the law.

Our understanding of the matter is that it will be the duty of the New York State Nurses' Association at the regular April meeting to call for an investigation through the county associations of the manner in which the conditions of the law are being complied with in regard to the registering and re-registering of certificates with the county clerk.

The terms of the waiver will have expired and the full conditions of the law will then go into effect.

All organizations affiliated with the state association should in the meantime take this matter up, appoint a committee to examine the books of the county clerk and notify delinquent members of the penalty of prolonged delay.

Having secured the passage of the Nursing Act it is certainly the duty of the state association through its members to see that every condition which it contains is fully enforced.

AN ATTACK UPON THE NEW YORK LAW. The New York State nurses are in a little flurry of excitement over a bill introduced by

Senator Cooper on February 19th, known as Senate bill No. 462, which has for its object the repeal of the Armstrong bill which became a law April 27th, 1903, and the establishment of a Commission for the regulation of the practice of nursing, to be composed of three medical gentlemen drawing the modest salaries of 7500, 4500 and 4000 respectively, with a board of five examiners, composed also of physicians.

This bill was also introduced into the House by Assemblyman Dowling on the 21st and the promoter of the bill, if we are rightly informed, is a Dr. Edward E. Hicks of Brooklyn.

After providing liberally for offices both in Albany and New York, and a paid clerical force, the duties of the Commission are outlined in detail. We give only those most important for want of space.

The Commission is to inspect at least once a year all training schools or institutions which may be in any way connected with a training school; to supervise the training of all student nurses in such training schools, regulating the hours of service, rest and recreation, to receive and remedy complaints made by any pupil, nurse or official or any citizen concerning the administration of such training schools; to formulate a curriculum of study and to make rules and regulations governing the examination of student nurses and the granting of diplomas to the same.

The said Board shall hold and conduct examinations of applicants for licenses to practice nursing, all applicants of whatever class having first to pass an examination before being granted this license.

Candidates for the Board of Examiners are to be nominated to the governor for appointment by the Medical Society of the State of New York and the Homeopathic Medical Society, according to the terms of this bill, but we do not understand that this provision is in any sense or in any way authorized by either Society.

In opposing this measure the nurses will have the support of the legislative committee of the Medical Society of the State of New York, and of all training schools, which if this measure were to become a law would be deprived of all independent management of their own institutions, and of the more liberal and intelligent men and women of the State who gave their active support to the passage of the Armstrong Bill, the administration of which law by the Regents of the University of the State of New York has proved to be of even greater value than was anticipated.

We cannot deny that there may be abuses existing in some schools, such as long hours, poor accommodations, unsatisfactory food and unjust treatment of a pupil at the hands of an arbitrary superintendent, but

all of such abuses will be remedied in time through the educating influence of the Armstrong statute as it is being administered through the Education Department at Albany.

The Cooper bill providing as it does liberal salaries for so many men is certainly suggestive of politics and graft when compared with the modest expenses which are entailed by the Education Department and the Nurses' Board of Examiners in the administration of the present law. From 1800 to 2000 dollars per year would cover the salaries paid the examiners and the clerical duties are largely performed by the regular force of the Education Department.

Mrs. Marian D. Brockway, 182 West 73d Street, New York, the chairman of the legislative committee of the New York State Nurses' Association, is calling upon the legislative committee of the affiliated societies throughout the State for cooperation in opposing the Cooper bill. Let all be active in opposing this most pernicious measure.

MARYLAND. The report of the Maryland meeting shows a splendid professional spirit among the members. Miss Nutting declined to be nominated for re-election and was succeeded by Miss M. C. Packard (Massachusetts General), who has been identified with nursing affairs in Baltimore for many years. The Maryland report should be read with care as it is full of helpful suggestions.

In this State an amendment is before the legislature to compel the recognition of training schools which continue the practice of sending pupils out to earn money for the hospital, the old worn out plea of nurses for the deserving poor being the reason given instead of the honest statement that the law as it stands interferes with the commercial interests of a certain class of hospitals. This measure is being vigorously opposed by the Maryland State Nurses Association and the supporters of the existing law, and we cannot believe such an amendment can be carried to a successful issue. This question will undoubtedly be settled before our next issue.

IOWA. In Iowa the bill now before the legislature is receiving much opposition and as we go to press the chances for success or failure seem to be about even.

The attitude of the medical profession is generally favorable throughout the State and the Senate Committee have reported in favor of the bill with a Nurse Board of Examiners, but there is much opposition to be overcome in both houses and what the result will be when the final vote is taken no one can say.

No law is better than a bad law and we have reason to believe that the Iowa nurses will withdraw their bill rather than accept one of poor standards.

MASSACHUSETTS. In Massachusetts the bill is again before the legislature the fate of which will probably be known before our next issue. We understand that some undesirable concessions have been made in this bill and we are inclined to think that defeat may be more to be desired than success.

INDIANA. In Indiana Miss Lizzie M. Cox, one of the Board of Examiners, has been appointed inspector of training schools, and will visit every school in the State during the year.

The law is being administered in a very satisfactory manner.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Examiners or Commission as it is called in Indiana, will be July 2, when officers for the year will be elected and a standard of education for training schools to be accounted in good standing determined. An examination will also be held at this time.

Miss Minnie S. Tye is the president of the "Commission" and not Mrs. Fournier, as we stated in a recent issue. Mrs. Fournier is the president of the Indiana State Nurses Association.

WORK OF THE RED CROSS

MISS MABEL BOARDMAN of Washington, D. C., a member of the National Red Cross Executive Committee, made a tour across New York State early in the month, giving addresses at Albany, Utica, Syracuse, Rochester, and Buffalo, in which she gave an outline history of the Red Cross origin and development in different countries.

In Rochester she gave a special talk to the nurses of the city upon invitation of the Monroe County Registered Nurses' Association, and the assembly-room of the beautiful nurses' home of the City Hospital was thrown open for the occasion. More than one hundred nurses had the pleasure of listening to Miss Boardman, who dwelt at length upon the importance of the nurse's place in the reorganization of the Red Cross Society of the United States. She emphasized the high standards that will be required of nurses who are enrolled for this service as regards character, technical skill, and health, and stated that it had been agreed that in case of war the Red Cross nurses were to be the army nurses.

Miss Boardman is constantly going about the country in the interest of this work, and we suggest that she should be invited to speak before nurses' organizations. Nurses need educating along these lines

MRS. ROBB'S TEXT-BOOK REVISED

THE third edition of the text-book on Nursing by Isabel Hampton Robb will be ready for publication March first. In preparing this revised edition the entire material has been gone over carefully. The arrangement has been altered somewhat, Chapter II and III having been combined to form Chapter II, and Chapters XVIII and IX to form Chapter IV. Two new chapters have been added, and elsewhere new material has been submitted for old. The first chapter has been entirely changed. Instead of the schedule for a two years' course a suggestive outline for the division of work over the three years of instruction, which is made to include a six months' preliminary course, has been given. Fifty pages of new material have been added, making this book the largest and most comprehensive of its kind in existence.

This standard book is now completing its thirteenth year and is the recognized text-book in hospitals and training-schools.

Mrs. Robb has given very careful study to the revision of this book, and in methods of practical nursing only the most thoroughly tested processes have been given, particularly in the chapters on aseptic surgery.

The revised edition is published by E. C. Koeckert, 715 Rose Building, Cleveland, Ohio, but it can be ordered from all booksellers. The price remains the same,—\$2.

THE VISITING NURSE QUARTERLY

THE second number of the *Visiting Nurse Quarterly* is very attractive, containing many reports and contributions of special interest to the district workers. Miss Johnson's article, "The Visiting Nurse and Acute Illness," is a plea for the advantages of keeping certain classes of very sick patients in their homes rather than to follow a hard-and-fast rule of sending such cases to a hospital.

THE NURSING HISTORY

MISS NUTTING and Miss Dock are working hard at the "History of Nursing" which they are preparing in collaboration. The book will

probably be quite large, as they wish to make it a full and comprehensive study of nursing in all ages and countries. The material is extensive but widely scattered, and it is hardly possible that the work can be finished before the autumn.

CHANGE OF DATE OF THE DETROIT MEETING

THE time of the meeting of the Associated Alumnae has been changed from May 1, 2, 3 to June 5, 6, 7, as an accommodation to the nurses of Detroit, where the meeting is to be held, and because the weather is usually more delightful in Michigan in June than a month earlier. There is every promise of a very full attendance and the program will be exceptionally interesting. The meeting of the superintendents of training-schools is to be at the end of April in New York City.

NURSE INSPECTION OF NEW YORK CITY SCHOOLS

EXTRACTS FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT OF MISS LENA L. ROGERS,
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOL NURSES

THE general condition of the school children at the beginning of the year while much improved left much to be done in regard to cleanliness, taking care of the eye and skin diseases, and eradicating pediculosis.

During the year the standard of cleanliness in the schools has been much improved. Children, encouraged by the nurses, take baths more regularly; clean clothes are put on oftener; the nails and hair are kept in better condition; tooth-brushes are used now as parts of the daily "cleaning-up" process, where they were quite unknown before. Children with trachoma bring their dispensary cards regularly to the nurse in the school, so that she may see that the treatment is being received. Skin diseases, such as ringworm, impetigo, favus, etc., the nurse takes care of in the school, and the child being allowed to remain does not lose any time.

The visits to the homes is a very important feature, and much valuable work is being done by teaching the parents what is required of them. They are instructed in keeping the children clean, carrying out treatment begun in school by the nurses, obtaining glasses for the children with defective sight, and taking children to their physicians or to dispensaries for treatment. Where the mothers are ill or cannot leave home on account of many other smaller children, the nurse takes the

children to the dispensary herself. The number of trachoma cases looked after by the nurses has increased rather than diminished. This is due to the fact that they are under much better supervision, since the staff has increased. More visits can be made, consequently, more children looked after and cured. Time can be taken to get under treatment younger children in the homes, who have not as yet been to school.

The parents, too, are beginning to realize through this teaching the importance of having their own eyes cared for, and it is not unusual to find mothers at the dispensary with their children receiving treatment themselves. Moreover, many unsanitary conditions are brought to light, during the nurses' visits to the homes. Instances are found where children sent home with scabies work on the sweat-shop clothing and carry it to and from the shop. Cases of contagious disease not reported (tuberculosis, measles, etc.) are also found, and many other non-observances of the law. These are all reported to the proper divisions. Where a destitute family is found, the relief societies are notified and the proper aid is given. During July and August, while the schools are closed, the nurses are assigned to "summer corps" work. Their duties are to make inspections in the tenements and where a child under one year of age is found they forward a card indicating the general conditions and health. In case of illness, the nurses are detailed to take care of the child until it is well and to give careful instruction in regard to feeding and hygiene.

Contagious Staff.—Two nurses are detailed to look after cases of scarlet fever and measles not sent to hospitals, and who are too poor to pay for skilled nursing. This is a very important branch of the work. The parents are instructed in the care of the eyes, nose, and skin, in proper isolation and disinfection, the dangers of complications and the manner in which contagion may be carried. The nurses wear cotton gowns which are disinfected each day at the hospital. These are put on and removed on going in and out of the houses. During the year people have learned to report cases voluntarily, knowing that they will be cared for if assistance is asked. Much preventive work is consequently being done.

During the year seven nurses resigned and twenty-three were appointed, making a staff of 50.

They are assigned as follows:

BOROUGHS	NURSES	SCHOOLS
Manhattan	31	150
Brooklyn	14	97

Bronx	1	8
Queens	2	18
Richmond	2	8

Following are the names of the nurses appointed during the year :

Miss Joanna V. Shea, St. Mary's Hospital, Brooklyn, '00.
Miss Adelaide Bonyng, Post Graduate Hospital, '02.
Miss Rose Healy, St. Vincent's Hospital, '95.
Miss Eleanor Hobart, Seney Hospital, Brooklyn, '98.
Miss Eleanor Rymal, Buffalo General Hospital, '96.
Miss Rosenie Kuschke, Seney Hospital, Brooklyn, '98.
Miss Medora Allen, Post Graduate, '93.
Miss Elizabeth Farrell, New York City Hospital, '01.
Miss Christine Schaefer, Metropolitan Hospital, '01.
Miss Gertrude Allwein, St. Joseph's Hospital, Yonkers, '98.
Miss Margaret Cummings, St. Mary's, Brooklyn, '95.
Miss Mary E. Plunkett, Connecticut Training School, '00.
Mrs. Louise Barnard, Brooklyn Eastern Hospital, '92.
Mrs. Lillian Anderson, Bellevue Hospital, '04.
Miss Margaret Roosa, Post Graduate, '01.
Miss Margaret Hope, Bellevue Hospital, '93.
Miss Josepha Kirschbaum, German Hospital, '98.
Miss Maude Royce, Post Graduate, '01.
Miss Emma J. Cincey, Lebanon Hospital, '96.
Miss Sarah Nelson, Long Island College Hospital, '93.
Miss Mary A. Daly, St. John's Hospital, Long Island, '04.
Miss Mary J. Whalen, St. Mary's General Hospital, Brooklyn, '02.
Miss Helen Tucker, St. Mary's General Hospital, Brooklyn, '02.

NUMBER OF CASES CARED FOR BY THE NURSES (50) DURING THE YEAR 1905

Pedecielosis	616,384	Scarlet fever	1,970
Eye diseases	188,805	Measles	2,292
Trachoma*	80,050	Diphtheria	283
Scabies	2,805	Erysipelas†	132
Ringworm	21,111	Miscellaneous	50,669
Impetigo	13,491		
Favus	2,645	Total	980,637
Tenements visited			40,070
Schools visited			25,943
Miscellaneous visits			1,344
Total visits			67,357
No. Children treated			93,411
No. Children examined			1,351,083

* Sent to Dispensaries.

† Experiment only.

The following cities have nurses as part of the medical inspection in their schools: Philadelphia, Baltimore, Cleveland, Chicago, Los Angeles and Grand Rapids.

Money has been appropriated for this work in Washington and a nurse will begin work right away. Boston is at present making an experiment, the Nurses' salaries being paid by two clubs. Pasadena, Cal., is about to install the system there. Buffalo and Detroit are making efforts at present to secure nurses for their schools.

Several smaller towns contemplate taking up this work in conjunction with the district nursing.

